

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

/081 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVANORDER:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

S/CCT (INFO)

USIA/IPS (INFO)

USIA/INA (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY RABAT
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CONCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN PRESS BRIEFING FOR
OCTOBER 23, 1975:

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE REPORT THAT THE TWO
AMERICAN DIPLOMATS IN LEBANON ARE REPORTED ALIVE AND IN
THE HANDS OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION FRONT?

A. WELL, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, WE ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH
THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. NOW, WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORT. WE
CANNOT CONFIRM ITS ACCURACY.

Q. HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY DEMANDS YET FROM ANYBODY
PURPORTING TO HOLD THESE TWO PEOPLE?

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A. ON THAT WE ARE JUST WHERE WE WERE YESTERDAY.

Q. YOU SAY YOU'VE SEEN THE REPORT; YOU CANNOT CONFIRM ITS
ACCURACY. WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN TOLD, IF ANYTHING, BY THE
LEBANESE GOVERNMENT?

A. I CANNOT GO INTO THAT. I SAY WE ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT

WITH THEM. I WOULD RATHER NOT GET INTO THE DETAILS.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT A THIRD PERSON--A THIRD MAN WHO WAS ABDUCTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED YESTERDAY? IT WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE EMBASSY SPOKESMAN IN BEIRUT. HAVE YOU GOT THE INFORMATION -- NAME?

A. YES, I DO. AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, WILLIAM BUCHER LYONS, WAS DETAINED BY UNIDENTIFIED ARMED ELEMENTS AT A ROAD-BLOCK WHILE DRIVING IN BEIRUT YESTERDAY -- THAT'S OCTOBER 22ND -- AT NOON. SUBSEQUENTLY HE WAS RELEASED SAFE AT ABOUT 4:30 P.M. THE SAME DAY, AND I THINK HE SAW OUR CONSUL AT THE EMBASSY IN BEIRUT LATE IN THE DAY.

Q. IS HE A PRIVATE CITIZEN, OR WHAT IS HE?

A. I BELIEVE SO. I DO NOT REALLY HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION. IN FACT, NOTHING BEYOND WHAT I HAVE GIVEN YOU.

Q. HE IS NOT AN OFFICIAL?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

Q. YOU DON'T KNOW HIS HOMETOWN?

A. NO, I DO NOT.

Q. WHY IS THIS INFORMATION SO MEAGER COMING OUT OF BEIRUT?

A. WELL, I THINK THAT IS ALL WE HAVE AT THE MOMENT, MURRAY. I THINK THERE WILL BE MORE COMING IN AND I WILL

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BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH IT WHEN I GET IT.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU HAVE NO INFORMATION OR THAT YOU WON'T COMMENT ON WHETHER YOU HAVE INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THE TWO AMERICAN DIPLOMATS ARE BEING HELD BY THE PALESTINE LIBERATION FRONT?

A. I AM SAYING THAT WE ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT THERE, AND I AM NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. AT THE UNITED NATIONS THIS MORNING, A LETTER WAS DELIVERED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI CALLING FOR THE

IMMEDIATE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT KNOWLEDGE OF

EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS ON THAT?

A. NO, I DO NOT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A STATE DEPARTMENT VIEW ON THE GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A. WELL, I THINK AS THE SECRETARY HAS SAID A NUMBER OF TIMES, WE ARE OPEN TO ANY ROADS TOWARDS THE OVERALL SETTLEMENT: THENEXT STEPS--THE COMBINATION OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE, OR THE CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES. BUT I THINK THAT IS A VIEW THAT I THINK WE HAVE STATED MANY TIMES.

Q. WHAT'S THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW TOWARDS THE RESOLUTION THAT'S BEEN INTRODUCED ON THE HILL THAT WOULD REVIEW AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS UN BUDGET IN VIEW OF THE RESOLUTION THAT WAS PASSED AT THE UN THAT EQUATES RACISM WITH ZIONISM--OR ZIONISM WITH RACISM?

A. I AM NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND THAT QUESTION.

Q. WHAT'S YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE RESOLUTION ON THE HILL THAT'S BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE THAT WOULD REVIEW AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN, WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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A VIEW TOWARDS DENYING THEM IN VIEW OF THIS RESOLUTION THAT'S BEEN PASSED BY THE UN?

A.# I WOULD HAVE TO LOOK INTO THAT ONE. I AM NOT AWARE OF THAT. HOWEVER, OUR VIEW ON THE UN COMMITTEE'S DECISION ON EQUATING RACISM WITH ZIONISM -- ZIONISM WITH RACISM -- HAS BEEN MADE VERY CLEAR IN NEW YORK. WE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO IT.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF MR. ATHERTON'S TALKS WITH THE MOROCCANS AND THE ALGERIANS CONCERNING SPANISH SAHARA?

A. WELL, AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE IS IN MOROCCO TODAY AND WILL BE BACK IN WASHINGTON TOMORROW. BEYOND THAT, I DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING, I THINK THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER HE GETS BACK HERE.

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